(c) the names of the other areas in foreign lands where the Company has such on going projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), the wholly owned subsidiary of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has signed a farm out agreement with Turkish Petroleum Overseas Company (TPOC), a subsidiary of National Oil Company of Turkey, on 22nd August 2002 for acquisition of 49 per cent participating interest in the onland exploration blocks NC-188 and NC-189 in Libya. The assignment is subject to the approval of Libyan Government.

(b) Block NC-188 is located in the Ghadames Basin, about 250 Km South of the capital Tripoli, whereas block NC-189 is located in the Sirte Basin about 800 Km South-east of Tripoli.

These blocks were awarded to TPOC on 22nd February 2000 with an exploration period of 5 years. Drilling is planned from 2003 onwards, for which acquisition of seismic data has been completed.

(c) OVL has stakes in one project each in Russia, Vietnam, Iraq, Myanmar and USA.

Excise duty relief to refineries in Assam

2794. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for withdrawal of 100 per cent excise duty relief to Numaligarh Refinery;

(b) whether Government are considering to give 100 per cent excise duty relief to all the four refineries located in Assam; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.